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Catfish Feed Deliveries

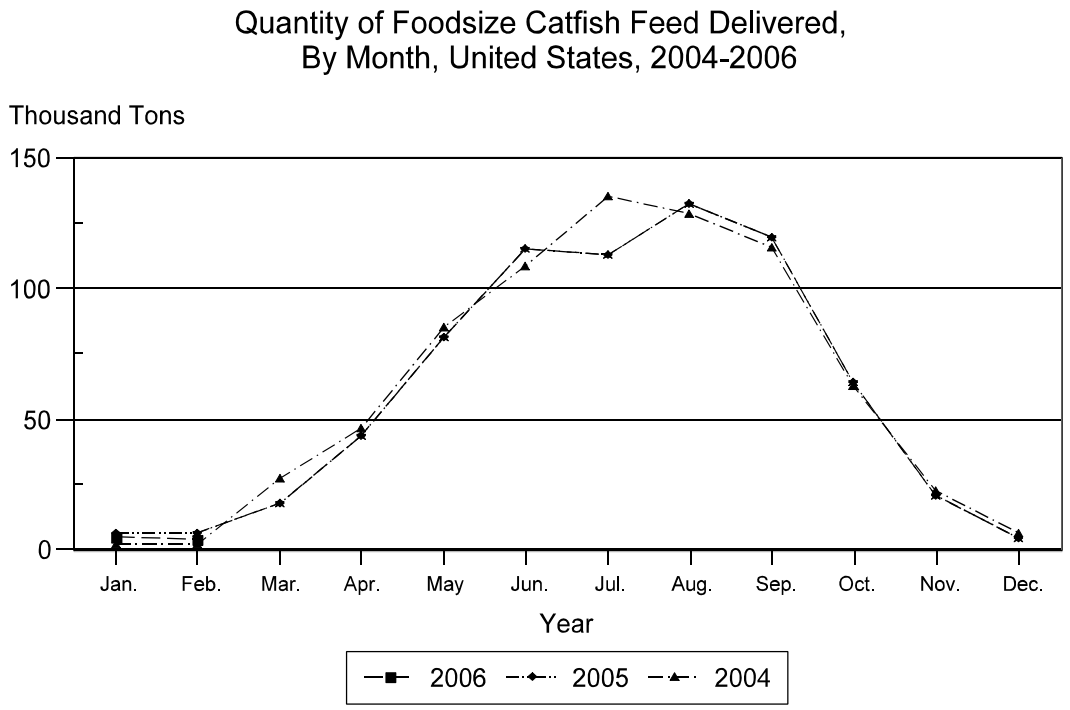
Released March 21, 2006, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Catfish Feed Deliveries* call Charles Butler at 601-965-4575, office hours 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT.

February 2006 Catfish Feed Deliveries Down 34 Percent From Last Year

Total catfish feed delivered in the United States during February 2006 was 4,337 tons, down 34 percent from February 2005 and 22 percent below the previous month. Feed delivered for foodsize fish totaled 3,970 tons, and feed for fingerlings and broodfish totaled 367 tons in February 2006.

February feed delivered to Alabama catfish growers for foodsize fish totaled 1,529 tons, down 43 percent from last year and accounted for 39 percent of the total foodsize catfish feed delivered to U.S. farmers.

The other major States total catfish feed deliveries in February were: Arkansas with 478 tons, Louisiana with 146 tons, and Mississippi with 907 tons.



Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
United States, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	6,265	5,103	81	6,265	5,103	81
Feb	6,334	3,970	63	12,599	9,073	72
Mar	17,917			30,516		
Apr	43,583			74,099		
May	81,591			155,690		
Jun	115,370			271,060		
Jul	113,086			384,146		
Aug	132,347			516,493		
Sep	119,788			636,281		
Oct	64,188			700,469		
Nov	20,553			721,022		
Dec	4,449			725,471		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
United States, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	287	469	163	287	469	163
Feb	205	367	179	492	836	170
Mar	715			1,207		
Apr	1,623			2,830		
May	2,796			5,626		
Jun	4,787			10,413		
Jul	6,797			17,210		
Aug	10,569			27,779		
Sep	5,148			32,927		
Oct	3,148			36,075		
Nov	1,189			37,264		
Dec	226			37,490		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Alabama, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	2,030	1,809	89	2,030	1,809	89
Feb	2,694	1,529	57	4,724	3,338	71
Mar	6,548			11,272		
Apr	11,242			22,514		
May	21,219			43,733		
Jun	32,942			76,675		
Jul	32,182			108,857		
Aug	36,549			145,406		
Sep	32,111			177,517		
Oct	16,750			194,267		
Nov	7,346			201,613		
Dec	2,928			204,541		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Alabama, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	10	*	*	10	*	*
Feb	4	*	*	14	*	*
Mar	51			65		
Apr	31			96		
May	46			142		
Jun	59			201		
Jul	145			346		
Aug	245			591		
Sep	94			685		
Oct	58			743		
Nov	20			763		
Dec	11			774		

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Arkansas, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	453	422	93	453	422	93
Feb	521	306	59	974	728	75
Mar	2,415			3,389		
Apr	7,741			11,130		
May	15,118			26,248		
Jun	18,453			44,701		
Jul	17,642			62,343		
Aug	22,048			84,391		
Sep	20,220			104,611		
Oct	10,768			115,379		
Nov	1,855			117,234		
Dec	130			117,364		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Arkansas, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	44	192	436	44	192	436
Feb	16	172	1,075	60	364	607
Mar	138			198		
Apr	294			492		
May	600			1,092		
Jun	923			2,015		
Jul	976			2,991		
Aug	1,496			4,487		
Sep	345			4,832		
Oct	811			5,643		
Nov	249			5,892		
Dec	22			5,914		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Louisiana, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	560	283	51	560	283	51
Feb	568	146	26	1,128	429	38
Mar	937			2,065		
Apr	2,848			4,913		
May	3,264			8,177		
Jun	3,342			11,519		
Jul	4,375			15,894		
Aug	4,975			20,869		
Sep	3,102			23,971		
Oct	3,140			27,111		
Nov	727			27,838		
Dec	59			27,897		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Louisiana, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan						
Feb						
Mar						
Apr	22			22		
May	54			76		
Jun	24			100		
Jul	7			107		
Aug	198			305		
Sep	10			315		
Oct				315		
Nov				315		
Dec				315		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish, Mississippi, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	2,622	1,169	45	2,622	1,169	45
Feb	1,895	773	41	4,517	1,942	43
Mar	6,604			11,121		
Apr	19,759			30,880		
May	39,046			69,926		
Jun	55,981			125,907		
Jul	55,039			180,946		
Aug	63,637			244,583		
Sep	59,346			303,929		
Oct	29,813			333,742		
Nov	7,809			341,551		
Dec	687			342,238		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish, Mississippi, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	196	191	97	196	191	97
Feb	153	134	88	349	325	93
Mar	405			754		
Apr	1,136			1,890		
May	1,864			3,754		
Jun	3,639			7,393		
Jul	5,444			12,837		
Aug	8,297			21,134		
Sep	4,382			25,516		
Oct	2,022			27,538		
Nov	669			28,207		
Dec	80			28,287		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	137	554	404	137	554	404
Feb	52	220	423	189	774	410
Mar	513			702		
Apr	914			1,616		
May	1,485			3,101		
Jun	2,193			5,294		
Jul	1,903			7,197		
Aug	2,166			9,363		
Sep	2,213			11,576		
Oct	1,373			12,949		
Nov	1,153			14,102		
Dec	52			14,154		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States East of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan		*			*	*
Feb	2	*	*	2	*	*
Mar	23			25		
Apr	46			71		
May	71			142		
Jun	1			143		
Jul	57			200		
Aug	51			251		
Sep	86			337		
Oct	67			404		
Nov	48			452		
Dec	5			457		

* Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Foodsize Fish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	463	866	187	463	866	187
Feb	604	996	165	1,067	1,862	175
Mar	900			1,967		
Apr	1,079			3,046		
May	1,459			4,505		
Jun	2,459			6,964		
Jul	1,945			8,909		
Aug	2,972			11,881		
Sep	2,796			14,677		
Oct	2,344			17,021		
Nov	1,663			18,684		
Dec	593			19,277		

Catfish Feed: Tons Delivered For Fingerlings and Broodfish,
Other States West of the Mississippi River, 2005-2006

Month	By Month		Percent of Previous Year	Cumulative		Percent of Previous Year
	2005	2006		2005	2006	
	Tons	*Tons*	*Percent*	*Tons*	*Tons*	*Percent*
Jan	37	72	195	37	72	195
Feb	30	27	90	67	99	148
Mar	98			165		
Apr	94			259		
May	161			420		
Jun	141			561		
Jul	168			729		
Aug	282			1,011		
Sep	231			1,242		
Oct	190			1,432		
Nov	203			1,635		
Dec	108			1,743		

Catfish Feed Deliveries

Survey Procedures: Survey data for catfish feed are collected from feed mills by the USDA-NASS Mississippi Field Office, who is responsible for ensuring survey coverage is as complete as possible. Mills are contacted by mail, telephone, Fax, or Internet. All cooperating feed mills have allowed NASS to publish data at the State, Region, and National level.

Estimation Procedures: The **"Catfish Feed Deliveries"** report refers strictly to catfish feed ***delivered*** to bonafide catfish producers and excludes catfish feed delivered to producers of other species. The totals include both bagged and bulk feed. Prior to summarization, questionnaires are compared to previous reports for comparability. Estimates are made for feed mills whose reports are not available in time to be included in the release. Those plants are identified by an asterisk on page 10 of this release. Estimates are based on the mill's previous reports and current conditions. Published totals are a straight summation of the individual reports and estimated data.

If a mill uses a fiscal accounting system, proration is used to convert reported data to a calendar month basis.

Two unusual features of this report are worthy of note: (1) cooperating feed mills are listed by name, and (2) it is impossible for the public to infer the amount of catfish feed ***produced*** in each state. Since many mills ***deliver*** feed to more than one state and to growers of other species, any inferences about overall production per state or per mill are not valid.

Reliability: Catfish Feed estimates are based on a census of all known active and cooperating catfish feed mills, and therefore have no sampling variability. However, estimates may be subject to errors such as omissions, duplication, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing of the data. These errors are minimized through strict quality controls in the edit and summarization process, and a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions may be necessary in the following month's publication pending a review of late reports received from mills. Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year are reviewed and subject to revisions. The review is primarily based on data that may have been received after the original estimates were made.

Definitions Used for Catfish Feed Sales

Broodfish - Fish kept for egg production, including males.

Catfish Feed - For the purposes of this report catfish feed is defined as feed ***delivered*** to bonafide catfish producers. Thus, it is not the absolute total amount of feed produced or even sold by a mill. (Some catfish feed is sold to producers of other species of fish.) The definition includes medicated feed.

Catfish Feed for Foodsize Fish - Feed containing pellets larger than 1/8 of an inch.

Catfish Feed for Fingerlings/Broodfish - Feed containing pellets 1/8 of an inch or smaller.

Fingerlings - Smaller fish about 2 to 6 inches in length.

Foodsize Fish - Fish being grown commercially for human consumption. Optimum sizes at harvest depend on the market but are generally no lower than 3/4 pound but near one pound.

Data were compiled in cooperation with the following feed mills:

Arkat Feeds
Alabama Feed Mill LLC
Carolina Fish Feeds
Delta Western
Fishbelt Feeds Inc
Land O Lakes
Flint River Mills Inc.
Cargill Animal Nutrition
Rangen Inc.
Silver Cup
Southfresh Feeds
Star Milling Co.
Topwater Feed Mill

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